

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Currently amended) The flocculant of claim 17 5, wherein said silicon-containing substance contains iron or aluminum.

Claim 7 (Currently amended) The flocculant of claim 17 6, having a pH value of 2 to 3.

Claim 8 (Currently amended) A manufacturing method for a flocculant made from a liquid silicon calcium containing substance comprising the steps of:

combining a silicon-containing substance and an alkaline substance that is calcium carbonate or lime;

heat treating the resulting combination at a temperature lower than the melting temperature of said silicon-containing substance to generate an acid soluble silicon-containing substance;

combining the acid soluble silicon-containing substance with an acidic solvent that includes HCl and one or more of acetic acid, ammonium chloride, or ammonium acetate to obtain an acid silicon calcium colloidal solution that is a liquid flocculant.

Claims 9 – 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Currently amended) The manufacturing method for the flocculant of claim 8, further comprising the step of passing the acid silicon calcium colloidal solution through a filter for filtering said silicon calcium colloidal solution to remove undissolved suspended matter.

Claim 13 (Previously presented) The manufacturing method for the flocculant of claim 17, wherein an aggregating means is added for adding gypsum to said silicon colloidal solution to cause undissolved suspended matter to aggregate.

Claim 14 (Previously presented) The manufacturing method for the flocculant of claim 17, wherein a pH adjustment means is added to add iron or aluminum to said silicon colloidal solution to adjust the pH value of said silicon colloidal solution.

Claim 15 (Previously presented) A flocculation method for mixing the flocculant mentioned in Claim 7 with a suspension to flocculate suspended matter.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently amended) A liquid flocculant for flocculating suspended matter, wherein the flocculant is obtained by:

Mixing a silicon-containing substance with an alkaline substance that is calcium carbonate or lime, heating the resulting mixture at a temperature below the melting point of the silicon-containing substance, whereby the silicon-containing substance is rendered acid soluble, and

dissolving the so-heat-treated silicon-containing substance in an acid solvent that includes HCl at least one or more of acetic acid, ammonium acetate, and ammonium chloride to obtain the liquid flocculant.